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**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/
VISUAL SITE INSPECTION**

**ORCHEM, INC.
(FORMERLY ASHLAND CHEMICAL COMPANY)
CINCINNATI, OHIO
OHT 400 011 615**

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement
Washington, DC 20460**

Work Assignment No.	:	C05087
EPA Region	:	5
Site No.	:	OHT 400 011 615
Date Prepared	:	March 1, 1993
Contract No.	:	68-W9-0006
PRC No.	:	009-C05087OH4C
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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), performed a preliminary assessment and visual site inspection (PA/VSI) to identify and assess the existence and likelihood of releases from solid waste management units (SWMU) and other areas of concern (AOC) at the Orchem, Inc. (Orchem), formerly Ashland Chemical Company (Ashland) facility in Cincinnati, Ohio. This summary highlights the results of the PA/VSI and the potential for releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents from SWMUs and AOCs identified. In addition, a completed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Assessment Form (EPA Form 2070-12) is included in Attachment A to assist in prioritizing RCRA facilities for corrective action.

Operations at the facility began about 1930. No documentation is available detailing early operational years at the facility. In 1980, Ashland filed a Part A permit application for the facility as a interim status treatment, storage, or disposal (TSD) facility. The application listed container storage (S01) but did not identify a specific hazardous waste storage area. The permit application also listed tank treatment (T01). Ashland used the facility to blend organic and inorganic chemicals into industrial surface cleaning compounds for the metal finishing industry. The facility underwent RCRA closure in 1982 and became a nongenerator of hazardous waste. The specific unit closed was not identified in available documentation.

Texo Corporation, Inc., purchased the facility in 1985 and immediately leased it to Orchem. Orchem uses the facility for blending specialty chemicals used in the food processing industry.

The PA/VSI identified the following three SWMUs and one AOC at the facility:

Solid Waste Management Units

1. Operations and Storage Area
2. Former Neutralization Pit
3. Former Chromate Destruction System

Areas of Concern

1. Chemical Storage Tanks

The potential for this facility to release hazardous constituents to on-site soils and ground water is moderate to high. It is not known how long the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1) have been used at the facility. The tanks were not surrounded by a dike until Orchem installed the present one in 1985. Releases to soils during loading and unloading of the tanks probably

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occurred in the past. The Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1) and the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2) have a moderate potential for release to on-site soils and ground water. SWMU 1 provides little secondary containment for chemical storage. During the VSI, PRC observed at least 300 55-gallon drums in this area, along with other various sized containers. Many drums were severely rusted and stacked three high. OEPA recently tested a few of these drums and subsequently requested from Orchem an inventory of all drums at the facility. SWMU 2 was removed from the facility in 1982. PRC could not determine how long the unit was used or if it had secondary containment. No soil samples were collected when the unit was removed. The Former Chromate Destruction System (SWMU 3) has a low potential for release. It was removed from the facility in 1982.

Area ground water is not used as a local drinking water source. All drinking water in the area is supplied by the City of Cincinnati. The City of Cincinnati draws water from an intake on the Ohio River about 9 miles above the confluence of the Ohio River and the Mill Creek. The nearest drinking water well is located about 4 miles northwest and upgradient of the facility, in Lockland. There are no drinking water wells downgradient from the Orchem facility. Orchem obtains all water from the City of Cincinnati.

The potential for all SWMUs at the facility to release hazardous constituents to surface water is low. All water from the facility is discharged to the City of Cincinnati Municipal Sewer District (MSD). Orchem does not possess a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The nearest surface water body is the Mill Creek, about 1,800 feet northwest of the facility.

The potential for the facility to release hazardous constituents to air is low. The facility has no air permits, and no complaints of air releases from the facility have been documented.

Because of the age of the facility, unknown activities over the years, and unsound containment, PRC believes that soil and ground-water sampling should be performed at the facility. Sampling should focus on the area in and around the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1) area and the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2). Sampling should also be performed at various locations throughout the Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1). All samples should be analyzed for hazardous constituents. OEPA should continue to monitor Orchem's actions concerning the 55-gallon drums stored at the facility. Analysis and disposal of these materials should be conducted in an environmentally sound manner.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), received Work Assignment No. C05087 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Contract No. 68-W9-0006 (TES 9) to conduct preliminary assessments (PA) and visual site inspections (VSI) of hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities in Region 5.

As part of the EPA Region 5 Environmental Priorities Initiative, the RCRA and CERCLA programs are working together to identify and address RCRA facilities that have a high priority for corrective action using applicable RCRA and CERCLA authorities. The PA/VSI is the first step in the process of prioritizing facilities for corrective action. Through the PA/VSI process, enough information is obtained to characterize a facility's actual or potential releases to the environment from solid waste management units (SWMU) and areas of concern (AOC).

A SWMU is defined as any discernible unit at a RCRA facility in which solid wastes have been placed and from which hazardous constituents might migrate, regardless of whether the unit was intended to manage solid or hazardous waste.

The SWMU definition includes the following:

- RCRA-regulated units, such as container storage areas, tanks, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment units, landfills, incinerators, and underground injection wells
- Closed and abandoned units
- Recycling units, wastewater treatment units, and other units that EPA has usually exempted from standards applicable to hazardous waste management units
- Areas contaminated by routine and systematic releases of wastes or hazardous constituents. Such areas might include a wood preservative drippage area, a loading or unloading area, or an area where solvent used to wash large parts has continually dripped onto soils.

An AOC is defined as any area where a release of hazardous waste or constituents to the environment has occurred or is suspected to have occurred on a nonroutine and nonsystematic basis. This includes any area where a strong possibility exists that such a release might occur in the future.

The purpose of the PA is as follows:

- Identify SWMUs and AOCs at the facility
- Obtain information on the operational history of the facility
- Obtain information on releases from any units at the facility
- Identify data gaps and other informational needs to be filled during the VSI

The PA generally includes review of all relevant documents and files located at state offices and at the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

The purpose of the VSI is as follows:

- Identify SWMUs and AOCs not discovered during the PA
- Identify releases not discovered during the PA
- Provide a specific description of the environmental setting
- Provide information on release pathways and the potential for releases to each medium
- Confirm information obtained during the PA regarding operations, SWMUs, AOCs, and releases

The VSI includes interviewing appropriate facility staff; inspecting the entire facility to identify all SWMUs and AOCs; photographing all visible SWMUs; identifying evidence of releases; making a preliminary selection of potential sampling parameters and locations, if needed; and obtaining additional information necessary to complete the PA/VSI report.

This report documents the results of a PA/VSI of the Orchem, Inc. (Orchem), formerly Ashland Chemical Company (Ashland) facility (EPA Identification No. OHT 400 011 615) in Cincinnati, Ohio. The PA was completed on December 4, 1992. PRC gathered and reviewed information from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), EPA Region 5 RCRA files, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The VSI was conducted on December 8, 1992. It included interviews with facility representatives and a walk-through inspection of the facility. PRC identified three SWMUs and one AOC at the facility.

PRC completed EPA Form 2070-12 using information gathered during the PA/VSI. This form is included as Attachment A. The VSI is summarized and nine inspection photographs are included in Attachment B. Field notes from the VSI are included in Attachment C.

2.0 FACILITY DESCRIPTION

This section describes the facility's location; past and present operations; waste generating processes and waste management practices; a history of documented releases; regulatory history; environmental setting; and receptors.

2.1 FACILITY LOCATION

The Orchem facility is located at 100 Murray Road in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. Figure 1 shows the location of the facility in relation to the surrounding topographic features (latitude 39°10'52"N and longitude 84°29'37"W).

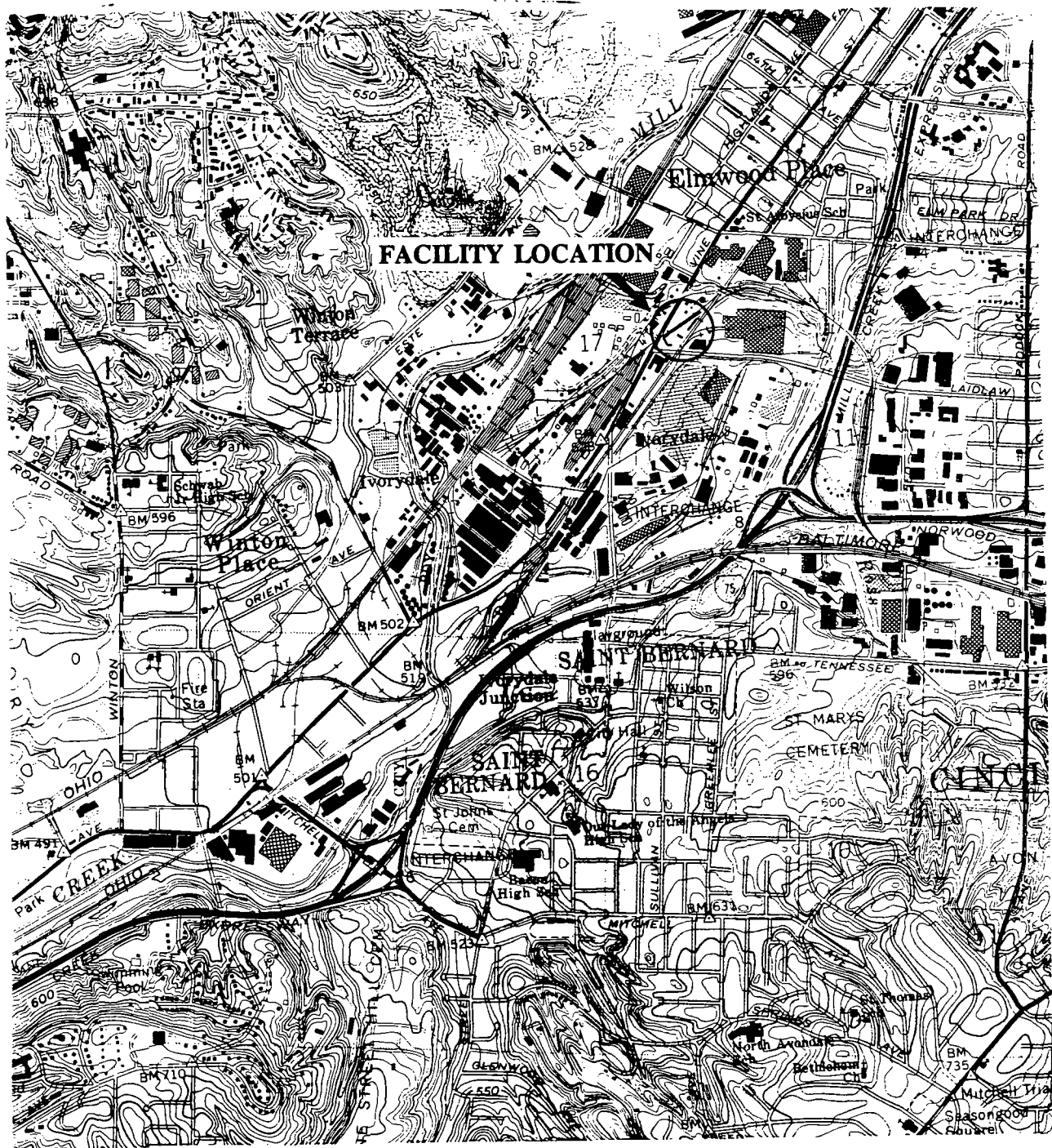
The facility is bordered to west and north by the Este Oil Company, to the east by Conrail railroad tracks and Jan Products, Inc., and to the south by the Proctor & Gamble Company.

2.2 FACILITY OPERATIONS

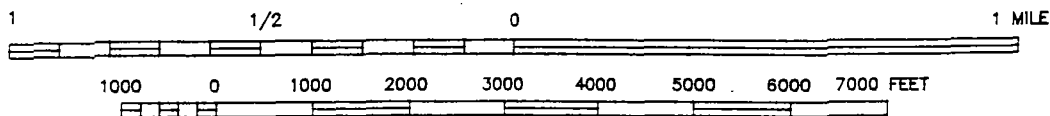
The facility occupies about 3 acres in a heavily industrialized area of Cincinnati. It consists of a trailer truck storage yard, a main operations building, a small storage building, and an Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1). Most of the property is covered with gravel; however, a few concrete pads are scattered about the facility.

Orchem uses the facility to blend specialty chemicals mainly used in the food processing industry. Raw materials, including surfactants and alkaline materials, are brought to the facility in various sized containers (primarily 55-gallon drums) and blended to a particular specification.

According to a Part A permit application filed for the facility in 1980 by Ashland, operations at the facility began in 1930 (Ashland, 1980b). No documentation is available detailing when Ashland began operations at the facility or what the facility was used for before Ashland acquired it. Ashland operations involved blending organic and inorganic chemicals into industrial surface cleaning compounds for the metal finishing industry. Raw materials were brought to the facility in 55-gallon drums, and by bulk tanker trucks and bulk railroad tankers. Bulk materials were stored in the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1). The raw materials were blended according to a customer specification. The product was then packed in either 55-gallon drums or fiber pac containers and shipped from the facility. Ashland planned to disassemble the majority of the buildings and systems at the facility (OEPA, 1981). However, little of this work ever began, and operations at the facility ended in late 1981. In late 1982, ownership of the



SCALE 1:24000



SCALE: 1" = 2,000'



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

SOURCE: Modified from USGS, 1972.

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FIGURE 1
FACILITY LOCATION

PRC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INC.

facility was transferred to the Globe-Right division of Ashland (Globe-Right). The facility was inactive under Globe-Right. Texo Corporation, Inc. (Texo), purchased the facility in early 1985 and leased it to Orchem.

The Orchem facility representative stated that the facility was in ruin and overgrown with vegetation when the company took over. Orchem repaired various portions of the facility and constructed a concrete dike around the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1). Orchem is finishing the renovation of a separate location in Cincinnati and plans to vacate the current facility by middle summer 1993.

2.3 WASTE GENERATION AND MANAGEMENT

The facility's SWMUs are identified in Table 1. The facility layout, including SWMUs and AOCs, is shown in Figure 2. The facility's waste streams are summarized in Table 2.

Orchem currently generates no hazardous waste. The only waste generated at the facility consists of nonhazardous wash water from cleaning the tanks used in the blending process. The wash water consists of water and various nonhazardous blending chemicals and is usually reused in the blending process. Wash water becomes waste when separate batches of chemicals with different components are blended, and the wash water cannot be used to rinse all tanks. The wash water is discharged to the City of Cincinnati Municipal Sewer District (MSD). Orchem does not possess a permit to discharge to MSD.

Little documentation was available detailing waste generation under Ashland. According to the Part A permit application filed by Ashland and from information documented during closure at the facility, Ashland generated chromium wastes (D007), corrosive wastes (D002), and wastewater. Chromium wastes were generated from the treatment of chromium containing compounds at the Former Chromate Destruction System (SWMU 3). PRC found no documentation in the files explaining how this system operated. The waste materials were placed in 55-gallon drums while excess wastewater was discharged to MSD. Corrosive wastes were generated in the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2) from adding caustic material to acidic chemicals used in the blending process (OEPA, 1981). The neutralization generated corrosive sludge that was placed in 55-gallon drums. Neutralized wastewater was discharged to MSD.

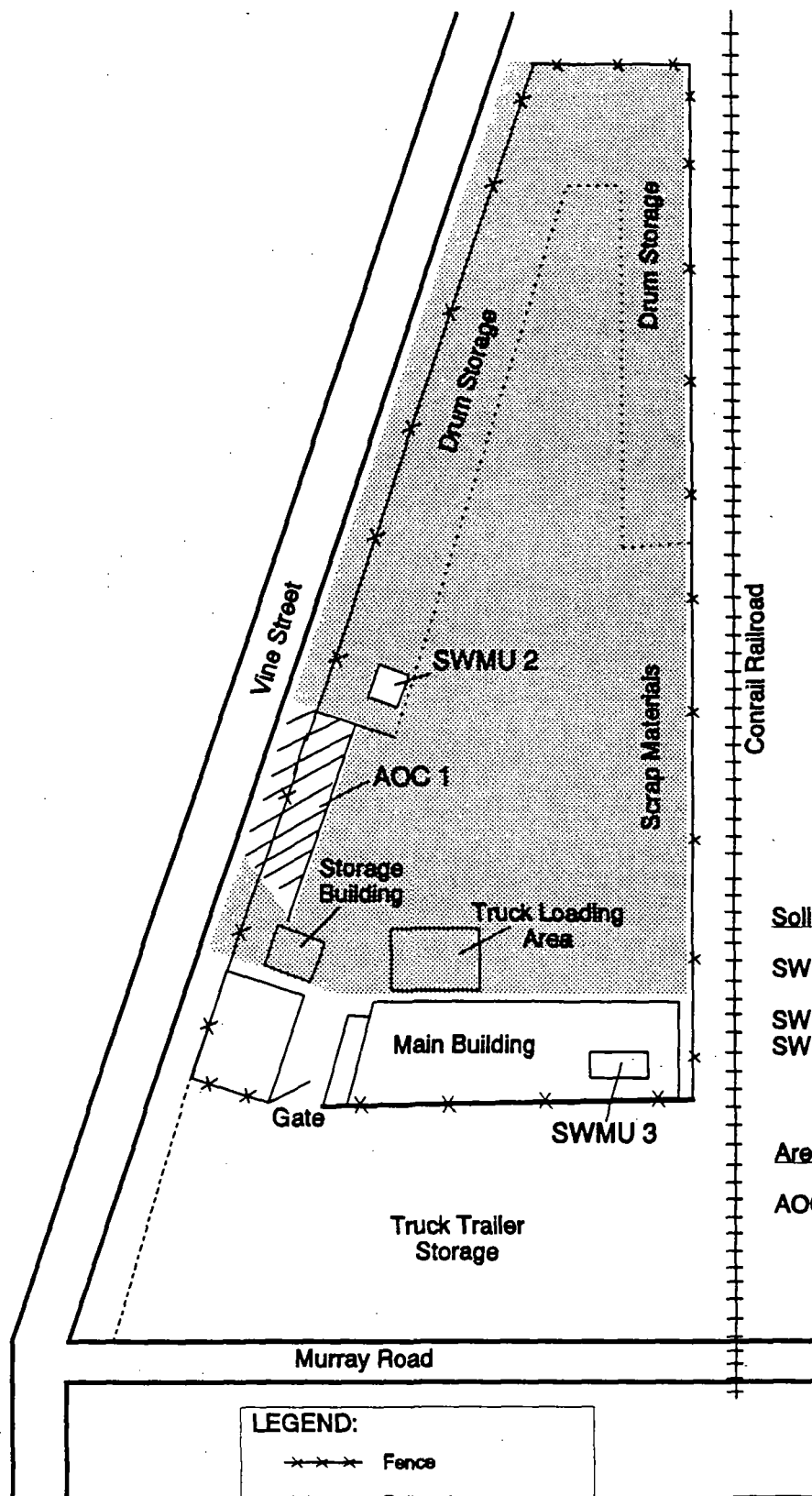
Ashland apparently had no designated hazardous waste storage area at the facility. Drummed waste from SWMU 2 and 3 was placed in various locations of the Operations and

TABLE 1
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS

<u>SWMU Number</u>	<u>SWMU Name</u>	<u>RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Unit^a</u>	<u>Status</u>
1	Operations and Storage Area	Yes	Active, RCRA-closed in 1982
2	Former Neutralization Pit	No	Inactive; removed in 1982
3	Former Chromate Destruction System	No	Inactive; removed in 1982

Note:

^a A RCRA hazardous waste management unit is one that currently requires or formerly required submittal of a RCRA Part A or Part B permit application.



Solid Waste Management Units

- SWMU 1 Operations and Storage Area (shaded area)
SWMU 2 Former Neutralization Pit
SWMU 3 Former Chromate Destruction System

Area of Concern

- AOC 1 Chemical Storage Tanks

LEGEND:

- Fence
+++ Railroad
- - - Property Line
[Shaded Box] SWMU 1 (shaded area)

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FIGURE 2
FACILITY LAYOUT

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Source: Modified from Ashland sketch received by PRC on 12/08/92.

No Scale

TABLE 2
SOLID WASTES

<u>Waste/EPA Waste Code^a</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Solid Waste Management Unit^b</u>
<u>Under Orchem</u>		
Wash water/NA	Blending tank cleaning	None
<u>Under Ashland</u>		
Chromium wastes/D007	Chromate destruction	1 and 3
Corrosive wastes/D002	Neutralization of acidic chemicals	1 and 2
Wastewater/NA	Chromate destruction and neutralization of acidic chemicals	2

Notes:

- ^a Not applicable (NA) designates nonhazardous waste.
- ^b "None" indicates that the waste is not managed onsite.

Storage Area (SWMU 1). No documentation was available indicating where drummed hazardous waste was taken when removed from the facility or how treatment was accomplished.

2.4 HISTORY OF DOCUMENTED RELEASES

No releases from this facility have been documented.

2.5 REGULATORY HISTORY

Regulatory involvement over the years at the facility has been limited. Ashland submitted a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity form to EPA in August 1980 (Ashland, 1980a). In November 1980, the facility filed a Part A permit application to operate under interim status as a treatment, storage, or disposal (TSD) facility. The application listed container storage (S01) and tank treatment (T01). The application did not identify a specific hazardous waste storage area at the facility. Treatment was identified as neutralization and chromate destruction, which occurred in SWMUs 2 and 3, respectively. The permit application listed corrosive wastes (D002) and chromium wastes (D007) (Ashland, 1980b).

In late 1981, Ashland informed EPA that the company was planning to end operations at the facility. EPA informed Ashland that a closure plan would be required for the facility. In February 1982, Ashland submitted to EPA a closure plan for the facility involving the removal of 40 drums of corrosive and chromium waste (Ashland, 1982a). The closure plan did not identify a unit used to store the waste or mention closure of a tank treatment unit (T01). EPA approved the plan in March 1982 (U.S. EPA, 1982a).

In August 1982, Ashland informed EPA that closure activities were completed and submitted a certification of closure from a professional engineer (Ashland, 1982b). The certification detailed that all waste had been removed from the facility, all tanks had been drained and triple rinsed, and the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2) had been drained and excavated. In September 1982, EPA acknowledged that closure was complete and considered the facility closed (U.S. EPA, 1982b).

In July 1981, OEPA performed a TSD facility inspection at Ashland. OEPA found no violations and noted that the main waste stream generated was wastewater from the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2) (OEPA, 1981). No other inspections by EPA or OEPA have been conducted at the facility.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, in late 1982, ownership of the facility was transferred to Globe-Right. Texo purchased the facility in early 1985 and immediately leased it to Orchem. Orchem has not filed a revised Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity form and is considered by OEPA to be a nongenerator of hazardous waste (PRC, 1993). Orchem intends to vacate the facility by middle summer 1993.

Orchem does not have air permits. No complaints from area residents concerning air discharges from the facility have been documented for either Ashland or Orchem. Ashland had no air permits.

Orchem does not have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In 1985, the company applied for a permit to discharge to MSD. The Orchem facility representative stated that the permit application was never processed. The company reapplied in about 1989 and never received a response from MSD. MSD files do not indicate that Ashland was permitted to discharge to MSD.

Before the VSI, PRC performed a drive-by to verify the facility's exact location. During the drive-by, PRC noted at least 300 drums on site, many of which were severely rusted. PRC informed OEPA of the facility's condition, and OEPA agreed to meet with PRC during the VSI. Because of the number and condition of drums at the facility, OEPA informed PRC that a sampling visit would immediately be performed.

In late December 1992, OEPA sampled at least four drums at the facility that Orchem claimed contained storm water. Preliminary analytical results revealed methylene chloride in at least one drum (PRC, 1993). OEPA has requested from Orchem an inventory of all drums on site. Because Orchem had planned to discharge drummed material to MSD upon vacating the facility, OEPA will require the company to receive approval from MSD for all discharges. All drums containing questionable materials will have to be sampled and analyzed for hazardous constituents before discharge to MSD can occur. OEPA is planning a follow-up visit to the facility (PRC, 1993).

PRC identified no underground storage tanks (UST) at the facility. No CERCLA activity has occurred at the facility.

2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This section describes the climate; flood plain and surface water; geology and soils; and ground water in the vicinity of the facility.

2.6.1 Climate

The climate in Cincinnati consists of cold winters and hot summers. The yearly average temperature is 54°F. The lowest average monthly temperature is 21.7°F in January. The highest average monthly temperature is 86.8°F in July. Precipitation for southwest Ohio is well distributed throughout the year. Average yearly rainfall for Hamilton County is 40.07 inches. Rainfall peaks in March at 4.18 inches and is at its least in October at 2.38 inches. The 1-year, 24-hour maximum rainfall is 2.6 inches, and the average yearly net precipitation is 6.0 inches. The prevailing wind is from the south-southwest, and the highest average wind speed is 11 miles per hour in the winter (USDA, 1982).

2.6.2 Flood Plain and Surface Water

The Orchem facility does not lie in a flood plain or flood prone area (FEMA, 1974). The nearest surface water body is the Mill Creek about 1,800 feet northwest of the facility. It eventually enters the Ohio River about 6.5 miles south of the facility. The Mill Creek is used mainly for storm water drainage from various industrial facilities along its route. The Ohio River is used as a drinking water source for the city of Cincinnati, as a transportation route, and for recreational purposes.

In 1988, the City of Cincinnati completed a concrete channelization project on portions of the Mill Creek to prevent erosion. The portion that runs near the Orchem facility has been channelized. Stormwater runoff from the facility is to the Mill Creek.

2.6.3 Geology and Soils

Hamilton County lies almost on the crest of the Cincinnati Arch, a large anticline running from Tennessee to Canada. The bedrock in the area is Ordovician age shale of the Kope formation, consisting of a 67- to 100-foot sequence of interbedded shales and limestones. Depth to bedrock in the area is about 150 feet below ground surface. During the Tertiary period (about 36 million years ago), the Hamilton County area was deeply eroded by a large drainage system that emptied into the ancient Teays River system. Pleistocene glaciation (about 2 million years ago) radically altered the drainage system, changing flow direction and filling valleys with glacial deposits of till, sand, clay, silt, and gravel (USDA, 1982).

Glacial materials in the Cincinnati area were deposited as a result of Illinoian and Wisconsinan glaciation periods. The glacial deposits in the area of the Orchem facility are quite unconsolidated and consist of the following materials in descending order (ODNR, 1992):

- 0 to 8 feet: Soil and fill material
- 8 to 12 feet: Muddy gravel
- 12 to 65 feet: Blue clay
- 65 to 115 feet: Medium to coarse sand
- 115 to 150 feet: Sand and gravel

Soils near the facility belong to the Urban Land-Martinsville-Fox association. Typically, the Martinsville-Fox soils are well drained and medium textured; they are usually located on stream terraces and outwash plains (USDA, 1982). Because of the amount of industrial activity in the area, most original soils have been disturbed.

2.6.4 Ground Water

Depth to ground water in the area is about 35 feet below ground surface. The Orchem facility lies over glacial deposits capable of yielding 250 to 500 gallons of water per minute (ODNR, 1992). Bedrock in the area does not store or transmit large quantities of water. Ground-water flow is generally southwest towards the Ohio River; recharge is from ground-water flow from the north and surface infiltration. The nearest drinking water well is about 4 miles northwest of the facility in Lockland (ODNR, 1988).

2.7 RECEPTORS

The Orchem facility is located in a highly industrialized area of western Cincinnati and is completely surrounded by other industrial facilities. The population of Cincinnati is 385,450 (USDC, 1991). The nearest residential area is Elmwood Place, about 1,200 feet north of the facility. About 800 private residences are within 1 mile of the facility. The nearest school is about 1,200 feet north. The facility is surrounded by a 6-foot-high, steel, chain-link fence.

As mentioned in Section 2.6.2, the nearest surface water body is the Mill Creek. It enters the Ohio River about 6.5 miles south of the facility. The Mill Creek is used mainly for storm water drainage.

Area ground water is not used as a local drinking water source. All drinking water in the area is supplied by the City of Cincinnati (ODNR, 1988). The City of Cincinnati draws water from an intake on the Ohio River about 9 miles above the confluence of the Ohio River and Mill Creek. The nearest drinking water well is located about 4 miles northwest and upgradient of the facility, in Lockland. There are no drinking water wells downgradient from the facility. Orchem obtains all water from the City of Cincinnati.

The Mill Creek is a sensitive environment mainly because of aquatic life. No wetlands exist within 2 miles of the facility (USGS, 1981).

3.0 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS

This section describes the three SWMUs identified during the PA/VSI. The following information is presented for each SWMU: description of the unit, dates of operation, wastes managed, release controls, history of documented releases, and PRC's observations. Figure 2 shows the SWMU locations.

SWMU 1

Operations and Storage Area

Unit Description: The Operations and Storage Area includes the northern two-thirds of the facility (about 1.5 acres) and includes the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1), a truck loading dock, and an outer storage building. The area's base is mainly gravel; however, a few unbermed concrete pads occur throughout the area. A storm water drain is located near the central portion of this area that discharges to the Mill Creek. Ashland used the area for container storage; however, a specific storage unit in the area was not designated. Orchem uses the area mainly to store drummed chemicals.

Date of Startup: Facility operations began about 1930. It is not known when this SWMU was first used for waste storage.

Date of Closure: The facility underwent RCRA closure in 1982. Orchem currently uses the area for product storage.

Wastes Managed: Wastes managed in the area included chromium wastes (D007) and corrosive wastes (D002). No documentation is available detailing how the wastes were managed after removal from the facility.

Release Controls: Unbermed concrete pads occur throughout the area. However, this area is mainly gravel and has no form of release controls.

History of Documented Releases: No releases from the area are documented.

Observations: During the VSI, the area contained at least 300 55-gallon drums and various other sized containers (see Photograph Nos. 1 through 5). Orchem stated that the drummed materials were product. Many of the drums, stacked three high in most areas, were severely rusted and appeared to have been onsite for an extended period of

time. The concrete pads throughout the area were severely cracked and stained. By slightly pushing various drums, PRC determined that practically all the drums were full of liquid materials. PRC also observed a milky white material at the base of the truck loading dock (see Photograph No. 6). No stained soil was noted in the area.

SWMU 2

Former Neutralization Pit

Unit Description:

The Former Neutralization Pit was just north and adjacent to the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1) at the west side of the facility. Its dimensions were not documented. However, it was constructed of concrete and had a capacity of 1,800 gallons. The unit was used to neutralize acidic chemicals used by Ashland in the blending process.

Date of Startup:

A startup date for the unit could not be determined.

Date of Closure:

Ashland removed the unit in 1982.

Wastes Managed:

Wastes managed in the unit included corrosive waste sludge (D002) and nonhazardous wastewater. Sludge was placed in 55-gallon drums and stored in the Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1). Wastewater was discharged to MSD.

Release Controls:

The unit was constructed of concrete. It is not known if the concrete was sealed.

History of Documented Releases:

No releases from the unit were documented.

Observations:

The area is now covered with soil and gravel. Skids containing full 55-gallon drums of liquid materials overlie the area. No evidence of release was noted.

SWMU 3

Former Chromate Destruction System

Unit Description:

The Former Chromate Destruction System was in the southeast corner of the main building at the facility. No documentation was

available detailing the capacity of the unit or how it operated.
Ashland removed the unit in 1982.

Date of Startup: No documentation is available indicating when this unit was first used.

Date of Closure: Ashland removed the unit in 1982.

Wastes Managed: Chromium wastes (D007), along with nonhazardous wastewater were generated from the treatment of chromium containing compounds. The chromium wastes were placed in 55-gallon drums and stored in the Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1). Wastewater was discharged to MSD.

Release Controls: The unit was indoors and on concrete.

History of Documented Releases: No releases from this unit were documented.

Observations: The area now contains a blending tank used by Orchem (see Photograph No. 7). The facility representative stated that Orchem had refurbished the area. No evidence of release was noted in the area.

4.0 AREAS OF CONCERN

PRC identified one AOC during the PA/VSI. The AOC is discussed below; its location is shown in Figure 2.

AOC 1 **Chemical Storage Tanks**

The Chemical Storage Tanks are at the western border of the facility, in the Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1). The unit contains five aboveground, steel tanks ranging in capacity from 3,500 to 10,000 gallons. The tanks are positioned on an unsealed concrete base. Orchem uses three of the tanks for product storage; the other two are inactive (see Photograph No. 8). No documentation is available indicating when the tanks were installed or if all tanks were installed at once. PRC could not determine what types of chemicals Ashland stored in the tanks.

The facility representative stated that Ashland removed at least two tanks from the unit when Texo purchased the facility; however, he was not sure how many tanks originally comprised the unit. When Orchem began operations at the facility, the company installed a 3-foot, unsealed, concrete dike around the remaining tanks. The diked area has a stormwater drain that empties to the ground surface. The drain is kept closed.

During the VSI, PRC noted various stains surrounding the unit and deteriorating concrete (see Photograph No. 9). The storage tanks appeared to be in sound condition; however, the sides of the tanks were stained with an unidentifiable material.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The PA/VSI identified three SWMUs and one AOC at the Orchem facility. Background information on the facility's location; operations; waste generating processes and waste management practices; history of documented releases; regulatory history; environmental setting; and receptors is presented in Section 2.0. SWMU-specific information, such as the unit's description, dates of operation, wastes managed, release controls, history of documented releases, and observed condition, is presented in Section 3.0. The AOC is discussed in Section 4.0. Following are PRC's conclusions and recommendations for each SWMU and the AOC. Table 3, at the end of this section, summarizes the SWMUs and the AOC at the facility and the recommended further actions.

SWMU 1 Operations and Storage Area

Conclusions: It is not known how long the unit has been used for chemical storage; however, the facility began operations about 1930. During the VSI, PRC observed over 300 55-gallon drums, along with other various sized containers, in the area. The facility representative for Orchem stated that materials in the drums were product. Little containment is provided for chemicals stored in the area. The potential for release to environmental media is summarized below.

On-Site Soils and Ground Water: Moderate. Because past uses of the facility are unknown, and because containment of chemicals is unsound, soil contamination is probable. If soils are contaminated, ground-water contamination is possible.

Surface Water: Moderate. Releases from the facility could be carried by stormwater to the Mill Creek.

Air: Low. Possible contamination would likely be limited to soils and ground water.

Recommendations: PRC recommends that soil borings be performed throughout this unit, with sampling of soil and ground water. Samples should be analyzed for hazardous constituents. OEPA should continue to monitor Orchem's actions concerning the 55-gallon drums stored at the facility. Analysis and disposal of these materials should be conducted in an environmentally sound manner.

RELEASED
DATE 4/6/99
RIN # 639-99
INITIALS WV

ENFORCEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

SWMU 2

Former Neutralization Pit

Conclusions:

This unit was removed from the facility in 1982. PRC could not determine how long the unit was used or if it had secondary containment. The potential for release to environmental media is summarized below.

On-Site Soils and Ground Water: Moderate. Because the unit may not have had secondary containment, soil contamination is possible. If soils are contaminated, ground-water contamination is possible.

Surface Water: Low. Contamination from the unit would be limited to on-site soils and ground water.

Air: Low. Possible contamination would likely be limited to soils and ground water.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends that soil borings be performed in this unit's former location, with sampling of soil and ground water. Samples should be analyzed for hazardous constituents.

SWMU 3

Former Chromate Destruction System

Conclusions:

This unit was located indoors and on concrete. Ashland removed the unit from the facility in 1982. Orchem has refurbished much of the building where this unit was located. Because the unit was indoors and has been removed, the potential for release to ground water, surface water, air, and on-site soils is low.

Recommendations:

PRC recommends no further action for this SWMU.

AOC 1

Chemical Storage Tanks

Conclusions:

PRC was unable to determine when the Chemical Storage Tanks were installed and how many tanks originally comprised the unit. No documentation is available indicating what types of chemicals Ashland stored in the tanks. Orchem installed a containment dike around the unit in about 1985. PRC noted stains on the concrete around the dike and what appeared to be chemical deterioration of the concrete. The potential for release to environmental media is summarized below.

RELEASED 4/6/99
DATE _____
RIN # 639-99
INITIALS WV

ENFORCEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

On-Site Soils and Ground Water: Moderate to high. Because the tanks were not diked for an unknown length of time, spills from the tanks could have easily reached surrounding soils. If soils are contaminated, ground-water contamination is possible.

Surface Water: Low. Contamination from the unit would be limited to on-site soils and ground water.

Air: Low. Possible contamination would most likely be trapped in soils or ground water.

Recommendations: PRC recommends that soil borings be performed in the vicinity of this unit, with sampling of soil and ground water. Samples should be analyzed for hazardous constituents.

RELEASED 4/6/99
DATE _____
RIN # 039-99
INITIALS mb

ENFORCEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

TABLE 3
SWMU AND AOC SUMMARY

<u>SWMU</u>	<u>Dates of Operation</u>	<u>Evidence of Release</u>	<u>Recommended Further Action</u>
1. Operations and Storage Area	Unknown to present	Staining on concrete pads. Unidentified white material was noted at the loading dock	Soil and ground-water sampling throughout the area; analysis of samples for hazardous constituents. OEPA should continue to monitor removal of drums on-site. Analysis and disposal of these materials should be conducted in an environmentally sound manner.
2. Former Neutralization Pit	Unknown to 1982	None	Soil and ground-water sampling near the unit's former location; analysis of samples for hazardous constituents
3. Former Chromate Destruction System	Unknown to 1982	None	None
<u>AOC</u>	<u>Dates of Operation</u>	<u>Evidence of Release</u>	<u>Recommended Further Action</u>
1. Chemical Storage Tanks	Unknown to present	Stained and deteriorated concrete	Soil and ground-water sampling near the unit; analysis of samples for hazardous constituents

REFERENCES

- Ashland Chemical Company (Ashland), 1980a. Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity for Ashland, August 8.
- Ashland, 1980b. Part A Permit Application for Ashland, November 12.
- Ashland, 1982a. Closure Plan for the Ashland Facility, February 2.
- Ashland, 1982b. Certification of Closure for the Ashland Facility, August 20.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 1974. Flood Insurance Rate Map for Hamilton County.
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), 1988. Sole Source Aquifer Map for Hamilton County, October.
- ODNR, 1992. Well Log Compilation for Orchem, Inc. Vicinity.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), 1981. Treatment, Storage, or Disposal Facility Inspection Report, July 15.
- PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC), 1993. Mark Metcalf, OEPA, Telephone Communication with Pete Zelinskas, February 4.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), 1982a. Approval of Ashland Closure Plan, March 3.
- U.S. EPA, 1982b. Acknowledgement of Proper Closure at the Ashland Facility, September 1.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1982. Soil Survey for Hamilton County.
- U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC), 1991. Census of Population and Housing, Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Ohio, August.
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), 1981. Topographic Map for the Cincinnati East and Cincinnati West Quadrangles, 7.5 Minute Series.

ATTACHMENT A
EPA PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT FORM 2070-12



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 1 - SITE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE
OH

02 SITE NUMBER
OHT400011615

II. SITE NAME AND LOCATION

01 SITE NAME (Legal, common, or descriptive name of site)
Orchem, Inc.

02 STREET, ROUTE NO. OR SPECIFIC LOCATION IDENTIFIER
100 Murray Road

03 CITY
Cincinnati

04 STATE
OH

05 ZIP CODE
45217

06 COUNTY
Hamilton

07 COUNTY
CODE
005

08 CONG
DIST

09 COORDINATES: LATITUDE
39°10'52"N

LONGITUDE
84°29'37"W

10 DIRECTIONS TO SITE (Starting from nearest public road)

From downtown Cincinnati take I-75 north to the Mitchell Street exit. Turn left on Mitchell and go to Vine Street. Go right on Vine Street for about 2 miles. Facility is on the corner of Vine Street and Murray Road.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

01 OWNER (if known)
Texo Corporation, Inc.

02 STREET (Business, mailing residential)
2801 Highland Avenue

03 CITY
Cincinnati

04 STATE
OH

05 ZIP CODE
45212

06 TELEPHONE NUMBER
(513) 731-3400

07 OPERATOR (if known and different from owner)
Orchem, Inc.

08 STREET (Business, mailing, residential)
10925 Reed Hartman Highway

09 CITY
Blue Ash

10 STATE
OH

11 ZIP CODE
45442

12 TELEPHONE NUMBER
(513) 984-0990

13 TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (Check one)

☒ A. PRIVATE

☐ B. FEDERAL:

(Agency Name)

☐ C. STATE

☐ D. COUNTY

☐ E. MUNICIPAL

☐ F. OTHER

(Specify)

☐ G. UNKNOWN

14. OWNER/OPERATOR NOTIFICATION ON FILE (Check all that apply)

☒ A. RCRA 3010 DATE RECEIVED: 08/08/80
MONTH DAY YEAR

☐ B. UNCONTROLLED WASTE SITE (CERCLA 103 c) DATE RECEIVED: / /

☐ C. NONE
MONTH DAY YEAR

IV. CHARACTERIZATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD

01 ON SITE INSPECTION

BY (Check all that apply)

☒ YES
☐ NO

DATE 12/08/92

☐ A. EPA

☒ B. EPA CONTRACTOR

☐ C. STATE

☐ D. OTHER CONTRACTOR

☐ E. LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL

☐ F. OTHER:

(Specify)

CONTRACTOR NAME(S): PRC Environmental Management, Inc. (PRC)

02 SITE STATUS (Check one)

☒ A. ACTIVE

☐ B. INACTIVE

☐ C. UNKNOWN

03 YEARS OF OPERATION

about 1930 | present

☐ UNKNOWN

BEGINNING YEAR ENDING YEAR

04 DESCRIPTION OF SUBSTANCES POSSIBLY PRESENT, KNOWN, OR ALLEGED

The facility currently generates nonhazardous washwater from the cleaning of blending tanks. The facility contains about 300 55-gallon drums of unidentified liquid materials. The materials may eventually be considered waste.

05 DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT AND/OR POPULATION

Potential soil and ground-water contamination from past operations and from the drums currently stored on-site.

V. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT

01 PRIORITY FOR INSPECTION (Check one. If high or medium is checked, complete Part 2 - Waste Information and Part 3 - Description of Hazardous Conditions and Incidents.)

☐ A. HIGH
(Inspection required promptly)

☒ B. MEDIUM
(Inspection required)

☐ C. LOW
(Inspect on time-available basis)

☐ D. NONE
(No further action needed; complete current disposition form)

VI. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

01 CONTACT
Kevin Pierard

02 OF (Agency/Organization)
U.S. EPA

03 TELEPHONE NUMBER
(312) 886-4448

04 PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSMENT
Pete Zelinskas

05 AGENCY

06 ORGANIZATION
PRC

07 TELEPHONE NUMBER
(513) 241-0149

08 DATE
02/11/93
MONTH DAY YEAR

02 SITE NUMBER
OHT400011615



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION	
01 STATE OH	02 SITE NUMBER OHT400011615

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 0	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

Potential ground-water contamination from past and current operations.

01 <input type="checkbox"/> B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

None

01 <input type="checkbox"/> C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

None

01 <input type="checkbox"/> D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

None

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. DIRECT CONTACT	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 5	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

The facility is well-secured.

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. CONTAMINATION OF SOIL	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED RELEASE _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 AREA POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 3 (Acres)	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

Potential for soil contamination from current and past operations.

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: Not known	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

Although ground-water in the vicinity is not used as a drinking water source, drinking water contamination is possible.

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. WORKER EXPOSURE/INJURY	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 5	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

Workers could become exposed to contamination.

01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I. POPULATION EXPOSURE/INJURY	02 <input type="checkbox"/> OBSERVED (DATE: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POTENTIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> ALLEGED
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: 5	04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION		

See above descriptions.



POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS

I. IDENTIFICATION

01 STATE
OH

02 SITE NUMBER
OHT400011615

II. HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS (Continued)

01 ☐ J. DAMAGE TO FLORA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

01 ☐ K. DAMAGE TO FAUNA
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

01 ☐ L. CONTAMINATION OF FOOD CHAIN
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

01 ☒ M. UNSTABLE CONTAINMENT OF WASTES
03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

☒ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None currently. However, drums stored on site may be considered waste after analysis. The drums have no secondary containment.

01 ☐ N. DAMAGE TO OFF-SITE PROPERTY
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

01 ☐ O. CONTAMINATION OF SEWERS, DRAINS, WWTPS
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

01 ☐ P. ILLEGAL/UNAUTHORIZED DUMPING
04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

02 ☐ OBSERVED (DATE: _____)

☐ POTENTIAL

☐ ALLEGED

None observed.

05 DESCRIPTION OF ANY OTHER KNOWN, POTENTIAL, OR ALLEGED HAZARDS

None

III. TOTAL POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: _____ Not known

IV. COMMENTS

None

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cite specific references; e.g., state files, sample analysis, reports)

See Part 2, Section VI

ATTACHMENT B
VISUAL SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY AND PHOTOGRAPHS

VISUAL SITE INSPECTION SUMMARY

Orchem, Inc.
100 Murray Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45217
OHT 400 011 615

Date: December 8, 1992

Primary Facility Representative: Mr. Jerry Ketover, Orchem President
Representative Telephone No.: (513) 984-0990
Additional Facility Representatives: Paul Jones, P&D Environmental Services
Brenda Cook, P&D Environmental Services

Inspection Team: Peter Zelinskas, PRC Environmental Management, Inc.
Stan Lynn, PRC Environmental Management, Inc.
Mark Metcalf, OEPA

Photographer: Stan Lynn

Weather Conditions: Cloudy, cold, with temperatures between 30° and 35°F

Summary of Activities: The visual site inspection (VSI) began at 10:00 a.m. with an introductory meeting. The inspection team explained the purpose of the VSI and the agenda for the visit. Facility representatives then discussed current facility operations; however, they were unable to supply information concerning Ashland's operations.

The VSI tour began at 10:50 a.m. PRC first walked through the interior of the main building and the location of the Former Chromate Destruction System (SWMU 3) was observed. PRC then toured the outside area and viewed the Former Neutralization Pit (SWMU 2), the Chemical Storage Tanks (AOC 1) and the Operations and Storage Area (SWMU 1).

The tour concluded at 12:15 p.m., after which the inspection team held an exit meeting with facility representatives. The VSI was completed and the inspection team left the facility at 12:30 p.m.



Photograph No. 1

Orientation: Northwest

Description: Drum storage in the Operations and Storage Area. Note that many of the drums are stored on bare ground.

Location: SWMU 1

Date: 12/08/92



Photograph No. 2

Orientation: West-Northwest

Description: Deteriorating drums in the Operations and Storage Area.

Location: SWMU 1

Date: 12/08/92



Photograph No. 3

Orientation: Northwest

Description: Drum storage in the Operations and Storage Area. Note the staining and storm water runoff on the concrete pad.

Location: SWMU 1

Date: 12/08/92



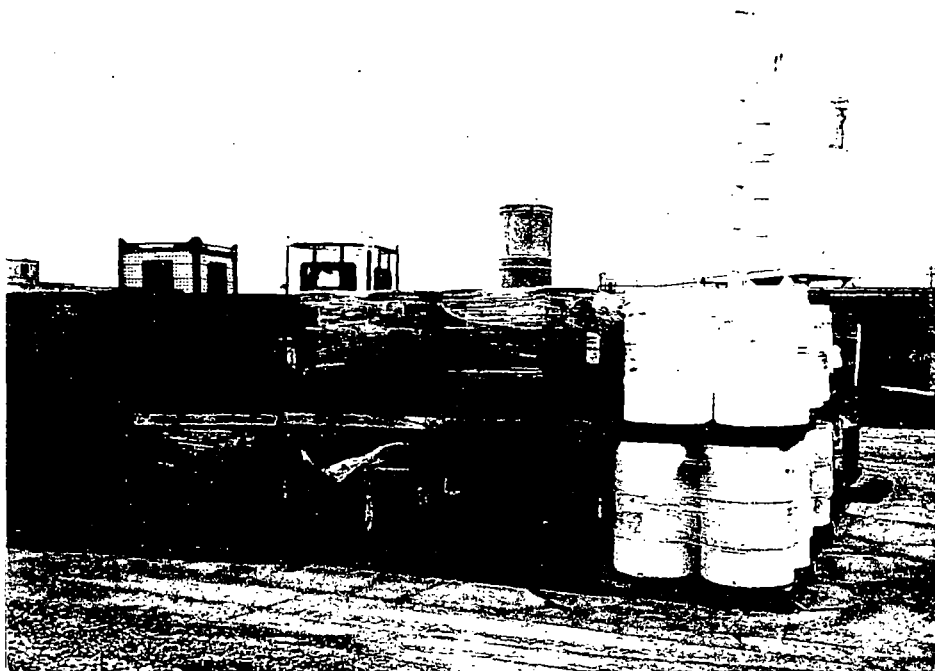
Photograph No. 4

Orientation: North

Description: Deteriorating drums in the Operations and Storage Area.

Location: SWMU 1

Date: 12/08/92



Photograph No. 5
 Orientation: East
 Description: Drum storage in the Operations and Storage Area.

Location: SWMU 1
 Date: 12/08/92



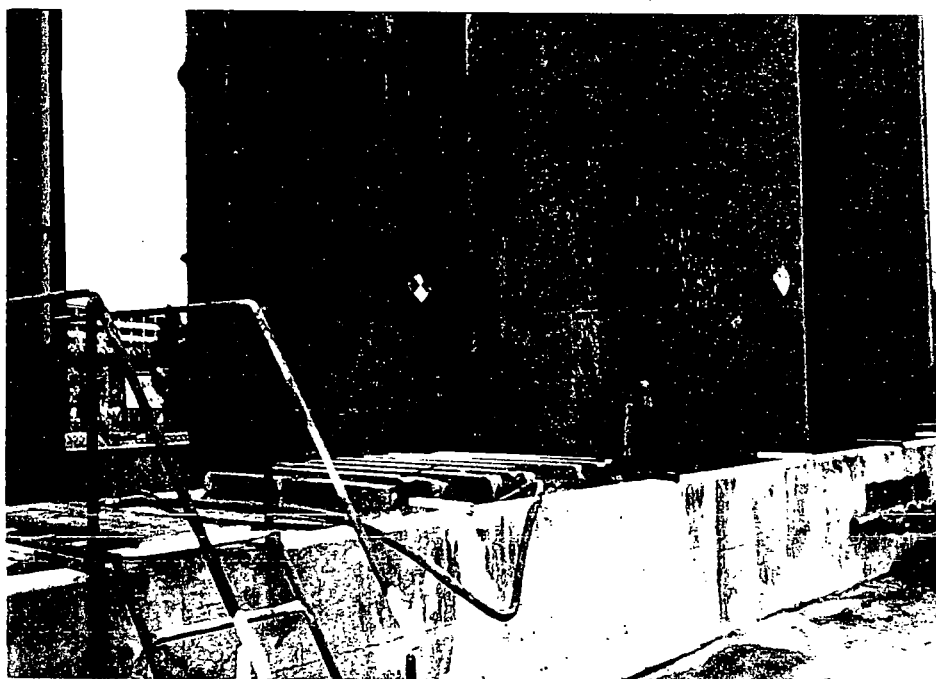
Photograph No. 6
 Orientation: Southeast
 Description: Milky white material at the truck loading dock area in the Operations and Storage Area.

Location: SWMU 1
 Date: 12/08/92



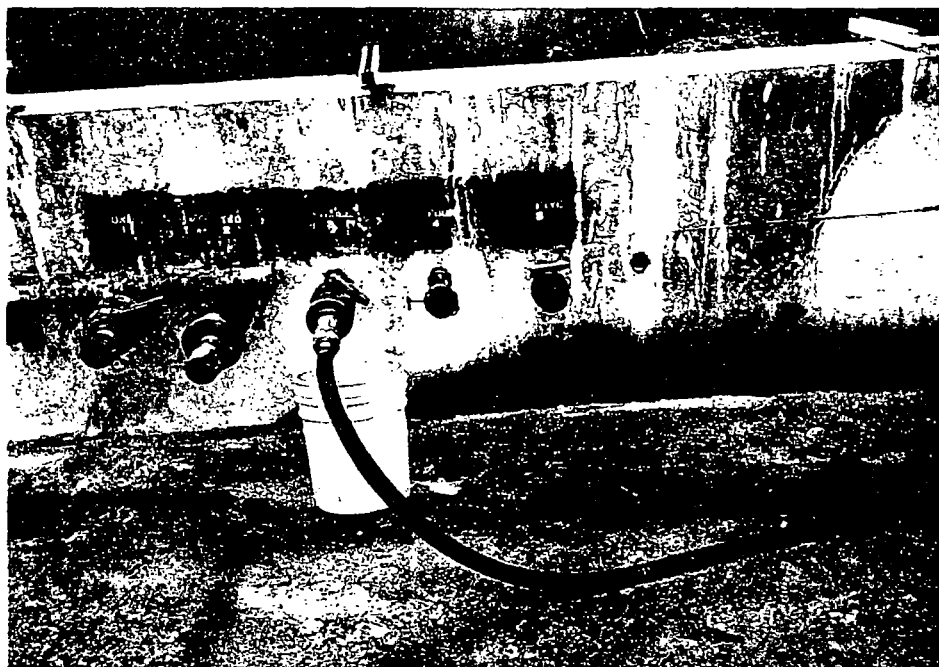
Photograph No. 7
 Orientation: South
 Description: The location of the Former Chromate Destruction System.

Location: SWMU 3
 Date: 12/08/92



Photograph No. 8
 Orientation: Northwest
 Description: The Chemical Storage Tanks.

Location: AOC 1
 Date: 12/08/92



Photograph No. 9

Orientation: West

Description: Staining along the dike of the Chemical Storage Tanks.

Location: AOC 1

Date: 12/08/92

ATTACHMENT C
VISUAL SITE INSPECTION FIELD NOTES

46

1330 DMC exiting facility
Tasty wade spread area

~~Don't know what I'm doing~~
2658

12-3-72

every ketover - Drum B&H
Cautions: Cold, Hotties
- 30°F

DMC: Pete Zelinators
Stan Lynn (photos)
EJB: Mark Metcalf
*Beliminary seen, DMC noted
lots of drums - informal EJB

1000 forward - click (internal)
overhaul 1985 back over

side. DMC was a miss
and overgrown with weeds.
Leaved like no activity
for quite a while

Old storage tanks.
Cleaned up buildings.
estimation - 4 loggers
in town. Note to

Spec. Edwards 12-2-72

will be washing this
property in 3-4 months

Leased Tex. Corp.

731-3400 Elmer Corbett

ops. store materials

Blending, specialty chems

used in food processing

Degreasers, alkaline, acidic

cleaners.

Rail Sones } Dad

Brenda Corbett } Elmer Corbett

75-80% into food

industry.

wastes - washout from

tank cleaning. MOD

discharge occasionally.

Most wash water is

sent back through system.

John Elmer Corbett 12-3-83

back washings, water
mainly. Collect washout

Put back into kind.

Sometimes must be

discharged to MOD.

When MOD. Filled for

Demolish in July 1980.

Never processed. Have

reapplied. Washing for

response.

Not known if will

on-site.

Asphalt - Back then 2 pct.

chloride plus chemical

like chemical.

1050 water around

to collect strong odors

Has materials.

Some obtaining.

John Elmer Corbett 12-3-83

70

Added section. Blending tanks. Messy. Drain on floor.

Trailers, drum shipping front of lot. Trailers stay on property.

* Have material storage Nitric acid.

* Storage tanks on-site 5 tanks - date was installed

3,500, 10,000, 10,000

two inactive. Ashland.

Had Ashland remove a few when they moved in.

fairly clean inside diox.

* Neutralization tanks.

Removed. No idea what happened. Lots of empty drums. Little

John A. Zimmerman 12-8-72

71

cleaner than what I saw earlier.

Full drums here and there. Broken in some. Some quite weathered and have been sitting out a long time.

Drums at back of lot. Broken mainly. Lots of weathered drums.

Condition of drums gives impression that most have been sitting around for a while.

Gravel looks fresh.

Crusher replaces every so often.

not sure p.2-

At least (500 or 600) drums on-site.

John A. Zimmerman 12-8-72

Mostly gravel throughout
the site. Some concrete
here and there. No definite
waste storage area that
was noted by Ashland
Not listed on map and
not known by them
stormwater drain in
center of facility. Ball
of water.

That loading area.
Milkly looking water
in collection area.
even officials not really
saying much, looking at
lead.

1930 the existing site

~~12-2-83~~
~~John J. Ashland~~